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REVIEWS

A GOOD BOOK IMPROVED

The Constitution itself must occasionally be amended; and Woolley's *Handbook*¹ has at last been revised. That a revision has been needed most teachers will agree, for the first edition appeared as long ago as 1907. Through access to Woolley's private notes and comments and as well, of course, to his later publications, the reviser, Professor Edward H. Gardner, has had an opportunity to preserve the Woolley tradition. And the Woolley tradition has, in fact, been preserved. In size of volume, numbering of sections, arrangement of material, clearness and simplicity of statement, and rigorous adherence to a "high standard of precision and purity in the use of the language" the new edition is virtually identical with the old.

Changes and additions have, of course, been made. A two-page program of study is included for the convenience of teachers who wish to use the book as more than a work of reference. Bold-face type distinguishes important material. Essential principles are often more fully stated or more abundantly exemplified than in the former edition. Occasionally a comment makes a statement less sweeping than that found in the older volume. Notes upon words in "A Glossary of Miscellaneous Faulty Expressions" have been frequently and wisely liberalized, and a number of new words have been added to the glossary. In the Index, references are now made to section numbers and not to pages, as in the former edition. These changes will probably commend themselves to all teachers.

Many instructors will regret, however, that further modifications were not made. Woolley's *Mechanics of Writing* has an unusually helpful discussion of paragraphing, the essence of which might easily have been included in the *Handbook*. In the sections on letter-writing there is no recognition of the growing practice of open punctuation in heading and inside address, and only partial and inconsistent recognition of the "block" form. The discussion of letter-writing would have been further improved had the letter and envelope models been set within

¹*Handbook of Composition*. By EDWIN C. WOOLLEY. Revised edition. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co., 1920.

ruled spaces so as to indicate margins and relative positions. A new set of exercises should have been provided. "A List of Words That Are Often Mispronounced" has been revised in accordance with current usage; though contrary to the reviser's statement (p. 236), at least *alternate*, *apricot*, *Basil*, *Pall Mall*, *piano-forte*, and *jugular* have well-supported pronunciations other than those indicated in the *Handbook*. Finally, brief explanations would clarify some statements that to many students seem arbitrary.

There are known to the reviser only two other important manuals that attempt to do for the student what the *Handbook* attempts to do. One has the advantage of large type, simplicity, and ease of reference, and elimination of all but the most important matter. The other is valuable for fulness of detail. The *Handbook* steers a middle course between the bareness of the one manual and the fulness of the other. Woolley's methodical arrangement, precision of expression, and general sanity have for years commanded the respect of all teachers. The new edition preserves the excellent qualities of the old. Despite the fact that the revision was not more thoroughgoing than it was, the *Handbook* remains, for school and college use, the leader in its field.

STANLEY S. SWARTLEY

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BOOK NOTICES

[Mention under this head does not preclude review elsewhere]

The Human Factor in Education. By JAMES PHINNEY MUNROE. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1920. Pp. 317.

The social and industrial problems before us, and the education necessary to meet them.

College Teaching. Edited by PAUL KLAPPER. With an Introduction by NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER. Yonkers-on-Hudson, N.Y.: World Book Co., 1920. Pp. 576. \$4.50.

A symposium by various authorities on methods of instruction in college.

A Guide to Russian Literature. By MOISSAYE J. OLGIN. New York: Harcourt, Brace, & Howe, 1920. Pp. 323.

The author has sought to emphasize those writers who interpret Russian life.

The Facts and Backgrounds of Literature—English and American. By GEORGE F. REYNOLDS and GARLAND GREEVER. New York: The Century Co., 1920. Pp. 425.

A convenient college handbook.